

Message Text

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN TSPA PFOR, UR US XH

SUBJECT: SPACE AGREEMENT: POST-ASTP COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS
(04.00.00)

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 12762, (B) STATE 199427, (C) MOSCOW 11543 (NOTAL)

1. DURING AUGUST 12 TELCON WITH NOVIKOV, VICE CHAIRMAN INTERKOSMOS, SCI COUNSELOR OBTAINED CONFIRMATION OF JULY 13, 1976 SIGNING OF FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH CEMA COUNTRIES ON LONG-TERM COOPERATION IN SPACE EXPLORATION. SCI COUNSELOR HAD PREVIOUSLY ONLY HEARD BRIEF MENTION OF NEW AGREEMENT ON TELEVISION.

2. THE EFFECT OF THIS AGREEMENT IS TO UPGRADE TO THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL FUTURE SOVIET SPACE COOPERATION WITH SIGNATORIES. PREVIOUS USSR-CEMA COUNTRY AGREEMENT ON SPACE COOPERATION HAD BEEN AT THE ACADEMY-TO-ACADEMY LEVEL.

3. IT MAY BE MORE THAN COINCIDENTAL THAT A STRENGTHENED SPACE AGREEMENT PRECEDED BY LESS THAN ONE MONTH THE END OF A YEAR-
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LONG SILENCE CONCERNING NASA PROPOSAL FOR POST-ASTP COOPERATION.

JULY 21 LETTER FROM ALEKSANDROV TO FLETCHER (SEE REC C)
CONCERNING FUTURE EAST-WEST DISCUSSIONS OF COOPERATION IN SPACE,
COMING SO SOON AFTER JULY 13, USSR-CEMA COUNTRY SPACE AGREE-
MENT, MAY INDICATE THAT THE SOVIETS WISHED TO FORMALIZE RE-
LATIONSHIP WITH EARZ EUROPEANS IN SPACE RESEARCH BEFORE
BEGINNING NEW ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. SOVIETS PRESUMABLY
SEE IT AS DESIRABLE TO MAKE A SHOW OF COOPERATION WITH EASTERN
EUROPE TO AVOID CHARGES FROM THEIR ALLIES THAT THEY HAVE NO
REAL PART IN THE SPACE EFFORT WHILE U.S. COOPERATES WITH WESTERN
EUROPE.

4. WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE THE SPECIFICS ON THE JULY 13 AGREEMENT,
IT SEEMS EVIDENT THE SOVIETS HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT WITH EASTERN
EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ON A FUTURE COURSE FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.
AT NTE SAME TIME, THE AGREEMENT APPEARS TO COMMIT THE SOVIETS
TO CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS. THESE OBLIGATIONS TO CEMA COUNTRIES
MAY INCLUDE PROMISED OF RIDES ON FUTURE SOVIET SPACE VEHICLES.

5. WE ARE SEEKING MORE DETAILS OF THE JULY 13 AGREEMENTS SIGNED
IN LENINGRAD. ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY ALSO WHSH TO ASK FOR DETAILS
OF THE AGREEMENT FROM LOCAL SOURCES.

6. FYI EASTERN EUROPEAN ADDRESSEES AND LENINGRAD:
DR. FLETCHER LETTER OF AUGUST 12 TO SOVIET ACADEMY PRESIDENT
ALEKSANDROV REPLIES AFFIRAMTIVELY TO LATTER'S PROPOSAL OF
JULY 21 FOR MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON OCTOBER 19 TO DISCUSS
POST-ASTP COOPERATION IN SPACE. NASA HAD GDE PROPOSALS
FOR SUCH COOPERATION IN AUGUST 1975. THERE WAS NO SOVIET
RESPONSE UNTIL THE RECEIPT OF ALEKSANDROV LETTER OF JULY 21.

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